

Aponogeton bruggenii (Aponogetonaceae), a new species from India

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Abstract

A new species of *Aponogeton*, *A. bruggenii*, is described and illustrated.

During our explorations in Maharashtra in India recently, we collected an interesting specimen of *Aponogeton* which, on closer examination, turned out to be a new species. Named after Dr. van Bruggen, in honour of his contribution to our knowledge of this aquatic genus, it is described and illustrated here.

Aponogeton bruggenii Yadav & Govekar, sp. nov.

Aponogeton crispus Thunb. similis, sed in foliisfere erectis emergentibus crassis fragilibus petiolo crasso acute - triangulato, ovariis azureis, fructibus minoribus, embryonibus minutis nonsulcatis cylindricis differt.

Typus: India, Maharashtra, Sindhudurg Dist., Nerurpar, about 9 km west to Kudal. 10. 9. 1992. Yadav 1 (holot CAL, iso BSI).

Similar to *Aponogeton crispus* Thunb., but differs in its nearly erect, emergent, thick, brittle leaves with stout, acutely triangular petiole, blue-coloured ovaries, smaller fruits and small, non-grooved cylindrical embryo.

Tuberiferous perennial herb, 10-30 cm in height. Tubers globose to elongate, 1-2 cm in diameter, 0.6-3 cm in length, crowned with fibrous roots. Leaves all emerging, semierect; petiole stout, thick, 5-25×0.3-0.4 cm. acutely triangular; leaf lamina thick, dark-green, brittle, 2-7.5×1.8-3.3 cm, oblong-ovate, cordate, truncate or rounded at base, entire along margin, acute or rounded at apex, 7-9 nerved, amphistomatic. Inflorescence one spiked; peduncle 20-30

Aponogeton bruggenii (Aponogetonaceae)

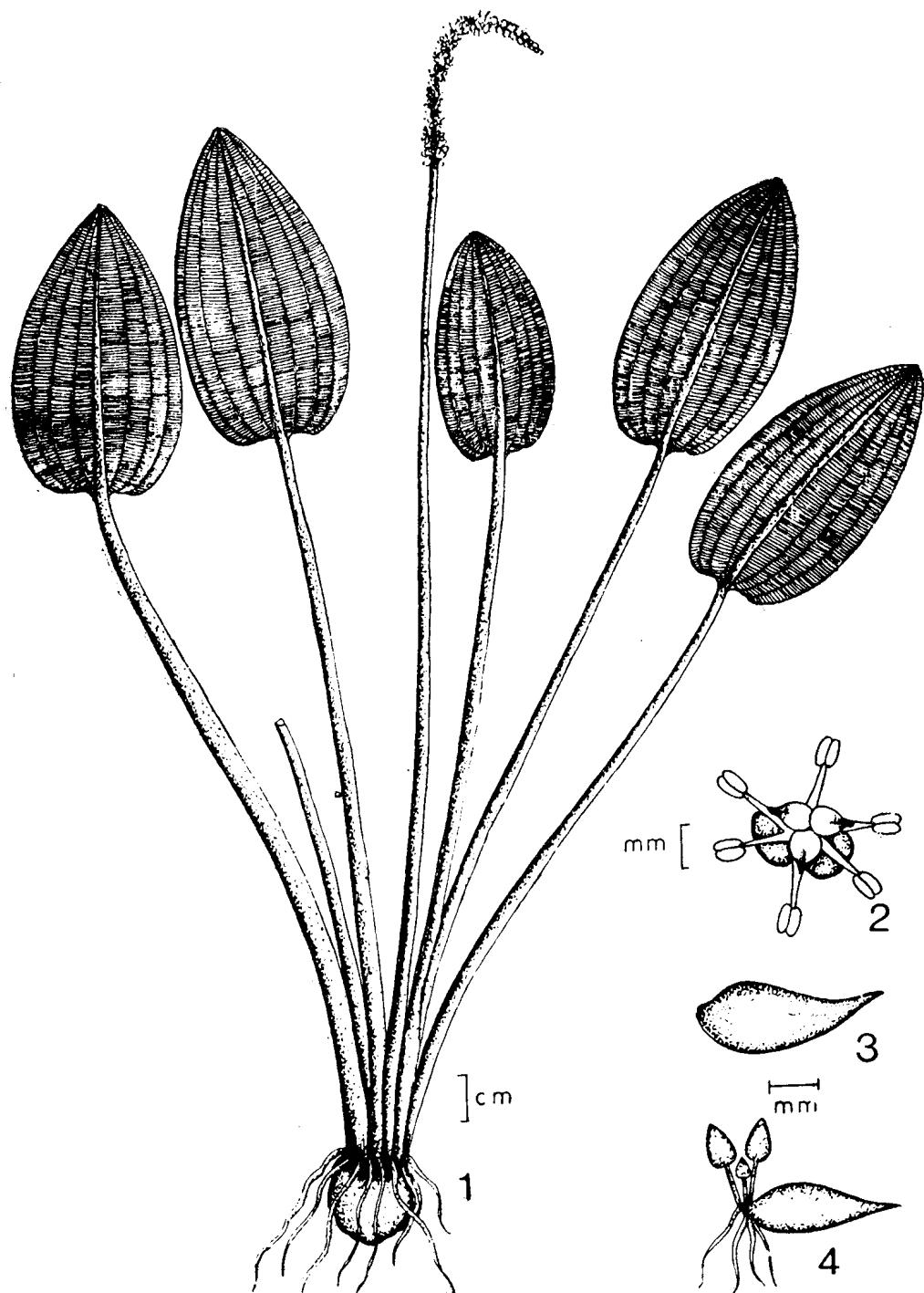


Fig. *Aponogeton bruggenii* Yadav & Govekar: 1. Plant; 2. Flower; 3. Fruit; 4. Embryo.

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cm long, slender; spathe *ca* 1.5×0.6 cm, caducous; spike 6—7 cm long densely flowered. Flowers pink, all around the axis. Tepals 2, pinkish-white, obovate; 1.5 × 1.5 mm in flowers, *ca* 2 × 1.5 mm in fruits, 1-nerved. Stamens 6; filaments 2—2.2 mm long, anthers violet. Carpels 3, *ca* 1 × 0.5 mm, smooth, blue in colour during flowering; ovules 2 in each carpel, basal; style short. Fruit 5—7×2—3 mm, beaked, smooth; seeds with simple testa; embryo 5—6×1.5—1.8 mm, cylindrical, plumule basal, not lying in a groove.

The species is found growing in paddy fields along the banks of Tarkarli river around Nerupur. Each tuber produces more than one shoot and finally each shoot develops its own tuber forming a bunch of 2—10 tubers depending upon the age of the plant.

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